1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

CHAP. V.

Of their HOUSHOLD FURNITURE, *and other neceſſary Utenſils.*

ALL the *Kamtſchatka* houſhold furniture conſiſts in diſhes, bowls, troughs, and cans made of birch bark. As theſe people have not the uſe of metals, we think it is proper to explain, how without the uſe of inſtruments of iron, they are able to perform their houſhold work, ſuch as building, ſawing, making of fire, dreſſing their victuals; being all the while ſo ignorant that they can ſcarcely count ten. How powerfully does neceſſity work upon the moſt inſenſible minds!

Before the arrival of the *Ruſſians* the *Kamtſchadales* uſed ſtones and bones inſtead of metals, out of which they made hatchets, ſpears, arrows, needles, and lances. Their hatchets were made of the bones of whales and rein-deer, and ſometimes of agate or flint ſtones. They were ſhaped in form of a wedge, and faſtened to crooked handles. With theſe they hollowed out their canoes, bowls, and troughs; but with ſo much expence of trouble and time, that a canoe would be three years in making, and a large bowl one year. For this reaſon, a large canoe or trough was in as great eſteem among them as a veſſel of the moſt precious metal and fineſt workmanſhip is with us; and the village which was in poſſeſſion of ſuch valued themſelves extremely upon it, eſpecially if they were maſters of a bowl which would ſerve for more than one gueſt. Theſe bowls they dreſs their victuals in, and heat their broth by throwing red-hot ſtones into it.

Their knives were made of a greeniſh mountain chryſtal, ſharp-pointed, and ſhaped like a lancet, which was ſtuck into a

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

325 a needle. The *Japaneſe* certainly uſed to come and trade to
439 the *Kurilſki* iſlands, for I found there a *Japaneſe* ſabre, a
172 japanned waiter, and ſilver ear-rings, which could be brought from no other place.

Of all the curioſities made by theſe wild people with their ſtone
321 knives and hatchets, nothing ſurpriſed me ſo much as a chain of
531 whales' bones, found in an empty hut near the *Tchukotſkoi* Noſs, made of different links as ſmooth as if they had been turned, about a foot and a half long, and formed out of one tooth. It is very extraordinary that any of theſe wild people ſhould with nothing but ſtone inſtruments have been capable of making ſo curious a piece of workmanſhip, which was worthy of the beſt artiſt.

501 They have two methods of making their boats; one ſort of
171 which is called *koaihtahta*, and the other *tahta*. The former do not differ from our fiſhermens' boats, except that the prow and ſtern are higher, and the ſides lower. The tahta has the prow and ſtern of an equal height; the middle is not bent out, but rather falls in, which makes it very inconvenient, eſpecially when there is any wind, as being very ſoon filled with water. They uſe the koaihtahta only upon the river *Kamtſchatka*, but the tahta in moſt other places. When any planks are ſewed upon the tahta they are called baidars, which are uſed by the inhabitants upon the *Bobrovoi* or Beaver ſea in purſuing the ſea animals. They ſplit theſe baidars, and ſewing them with whales' beards caulk them with moſs or nettles beat ſoft. The *Kuriles* of the iſlands and thoſe that live upon the *Lopatka* build the baidars with a keel, to which they ſew planks with whales' beard, and caulk them with moſs. In *Kamtſchatka* they make their boats of poplar wood only; but the *Kuriles*, having no proper wood of their own, are obliged to make uſe of what is thrown on ſhore by the ſea, and which is ſuppoſed to come from the coaſt of *Japan*, *America*, or *China*. The northern inhabitants of *Kamtſchatka*, the

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal

[P. 104]

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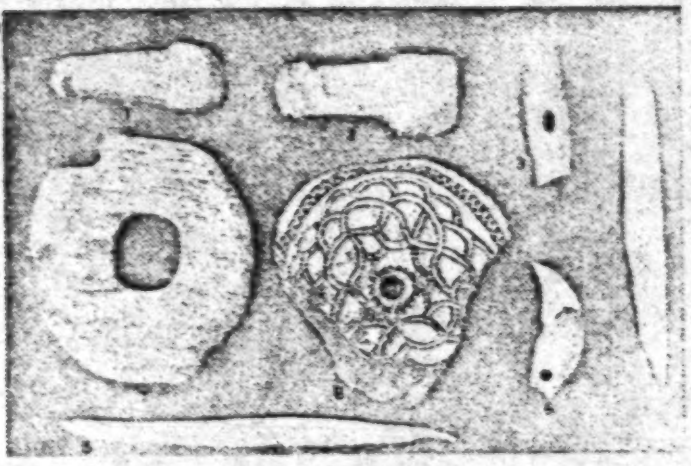

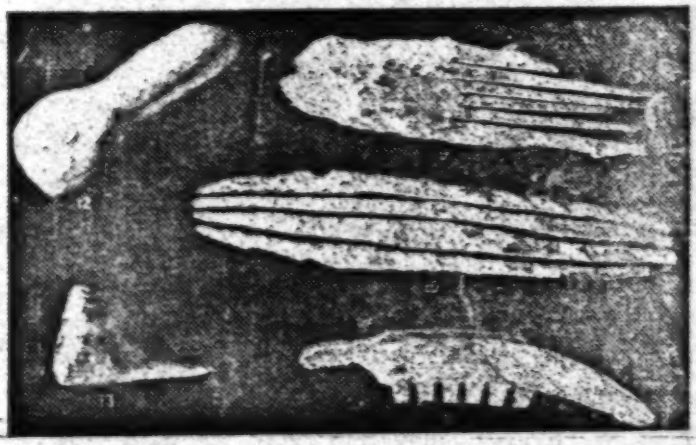

1, 2. Unknown bone implements. May be stamps to decorate clay pots when the clay is still wet.
3. Fragment of harpoon bone head.
4 and 5. Seem to be dressed bone prongs of a bird dart.
6. A perforated seal's tooth, worn as ornament.
7. Bone belt-buckle without decoration.
8. Bone belt-buckle ornamented with engraved zigzags, interwoven curves and circles.
9. Half dressed bone comb.
10. Comb-like bone implement, as it seems to the author, for impressing parallel lines under the rim of clay pots.
11. Bone implement for stamping clay pots, as shown on potsherds on Plates 37 and 38.
12. Bone implement for making fillets under the rim.
13. Bone implement for ornamenting clay pots by puncturing.

6:Antropova E-4 (no date) 1964 RY3 Kamchadal RY3

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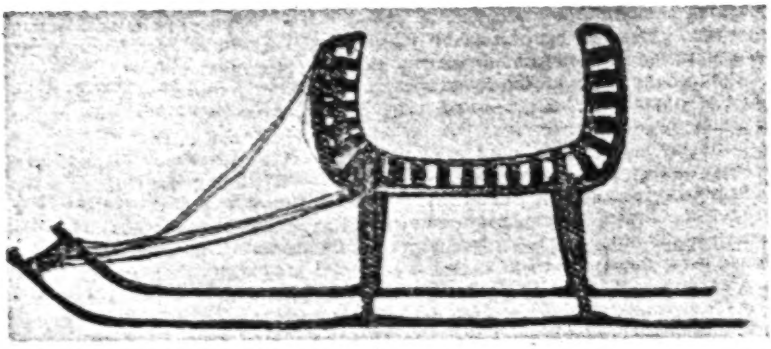

18th-century dogsled.

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handle. Later the horn was replaced by an iron tip. Gathering plants was women's work. Fishing and hunting were men's occupations, but the preserving of fish was in the woman's domain, as were the spinning of thread for the nets from nettle, the weaving of mats, and sewing of clothes. Krasheninnikov reports that preparing food, tending the dogs and all carpentry work were done by men.

The Russians found among the Itel'mens a highly developed neolithic technology. "The former Kamchatka metals, almost until the coming of the Russians, were bone and stones. They were used in the making of axes, knives, spears, arrows, lancets and needles," Krasheninnikov writes about the Itel'mens. Rock crystal was also widely used for knives and tips. Fire was made with a wooden drill. Food, mainly fish and meat, was cooked even in the early 18th century in wooden troughs, into which red-hot stones were thrown.

The only domesticated animal of the Itel'mens was the dog. Later, harness dog-breeding of the so-called Eastern Siberian type developed in Kamchatka. However, until the middle of the 19th century, the Itel'mens used their ancient sled with two pairs of arched staves and a saddle-like seat. At the time of Krasheninnikov's visit, the Itel'mens had gliding skis, but used mostly woven snowshoes. River navigation was by bat—narrow boats, hollowed out of whole poplar trunks. For stability and greater carrying capacity, two of these boats were sometimes tied together and covered to make a platform. Krasheninnikov reports that it took the Itel'mens three years to make a bat with a stone adze.

The Russians called the Itel'men villages in the 18th century ostroshkas, or "little forts." They were situated along river banks and consisted of winter and summer dwellings. The winter dwelling was a semiunderground yurt, as it was then called by the Russians, with an entrance through the smoke-opening in the roof. The dwelling also had a side exit, but this was used only by women and children. The summer dwelling of the individual family was the so-called balagan—a pyramidal, grass-covered tent set on high platforms resting on piles. The ancient dress of the Itel'mens resembled Koryak and Chukchi dress.

Such, in its general features, was the material culture of the Itel'mens in the beginning of the 18th century. Analogous to the low level of material production were the primitive forms of social relations.